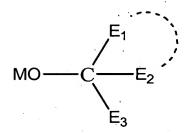
## Claims:

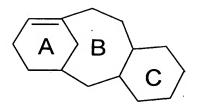
1. A metal alkoxide having the formula:



wherein M is a metal;

 $E_1$  and  $E_2$  and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise a carbocyclic or heterocyclic skeleton containing about 6 to 20 ring atoms, the hetero atoms being oxygen; and  $E_3$  is hydrogen or hydrocarbon.

- 2. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein E3 is hydrogen.
- 3. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.
- 4. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.
- 5. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein  $E_3$  is hydrogen and M is a Group IA, IIA or transition metal.
- 6. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein  $E_3$  is hydrogen and M is lithium, magnesium, sodium, potassium or titanium.
- 7. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B and C of structure



8. The alkoxide of claim 1 wherein  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  and the carbon atom to which they are attached comprise the carbocyclic skeleton corresponding to rings A, B, C and the oxetane ring of structure

